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JOURNAL OF THE VISITATION

OF

THE DIOCESE OF MONTREAL,

IN THE DISTRICTS OF

MONTREAL, THREE RIVERS, AND ST. FRANCIS,

BY THE

RIGHT REV. THE LORD BISHOP OF MONTREAL.

COMMUNICATED TO THE

Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY RICHARD CLAY, BREAD STREET HILL.
1841.

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THE RIVER ST. LAWRENCE, AT MONTREAL THE CAPITAL OF LOWER CANADA

JOURNAL OF THE VISITATION,

&c. &c.

Marchmont, near Quebec, 12th May, 1840.

I LEFT Quebec on the 7th of January, and slept that night at the house of the Hon. E. Hale, sen., a member of the Council, and Seigneur of Port Neuf. This gentleman has formed a considerable Protestant settlement in the rear of the old French concessions; the charge of which, in conjunction with that of Bourg Louis and St. Patrick's, Jacques-Cartier River, I am happy to find that the Board have agreed to my proposal of confiding to the Rev. W. W. Wait. I have much comfort in looking forward to the effect of his labours among these miserably ill-provided settlers, for whom the Rev. H. D. Sewell, and other Clergymen from Quebec, have indeed done what in them lay, but their visits have been necessarily "few and far between." Their commendable exertions, however, have, no doubt, contributed to keep alive a sense of the one thing needful to man; and the way has been preserved more open for those faithful ministrations which they will now more abundantly enjoy. Mr. Wait, whose arrival may, by the will of God, be looked for in a very few days, will enter, I am sure, upon his task in a spirit which may encourage us to look for the Divine blessing upon his exertions.

Mr. Hale also is ready to do his part. He has prepared a couple of rooms for the accommodation of Mr. Wait, in his own house, with a separate entrance, intending that that gentleman should live with him entirely, till some more permanent arrangement shall be carried into effect. He has also encouraged me to expect that the settlers will contribute, according to the humble measure of their ability, towards the maintenance of their Clergyman, as soon as they shall have completed the erection of the church, in aid of which object Mr. Wait has collected some money in England, and to this I shall be enabled to add a small grant from the bounty of the Society placed at my disposal.

Mr. Turner, the catechist stationed at Bourg Louis, came over to meet me at Port Neuf. His services, instead of being less valuable, will, I trust, be more so when they become simply subsidiary to those higher ministrations which will be afforded at stated intervals to the settlement.

Port Neuf is something less than forty miles from Quebec. From hence to Montreal, a distance of about one hundred and forty more, the road continues through the French Roman-catholic parishes, along the shore of the St. Lawrence the whole way—the opposite shore exhibiting also the same

characteristic. Their churches, their parsonage-houses, and their pastors, have all the air of due establishment and settled provision for the religious wants of the people. I never look upon them with an absolutely evil eye; for I trust in God that the day will come, and is advancing, when it will be seen that they have been reserved by Providence for something more in accordance than their present purpose with the pure gospel of Christ; and in the mean time, even under the most debased system of Christianity, there is a mixture of good influence, and the people are far better off than they would be without it. I doubt not that there are souls among them accepted through Christ; yet may God hasten the day of their deliverance!

We have only four churches on the shores of the St. Lawrence, between Quebec and Montreal; two on each side of the river.

I reached Montreal at night on the 9th, and remained there, enjoying the kindness of private hospitality, till the 14th, being engaged in matters connected with the interests of the Church, or with the arrangements now in train for the university of McGill College. On Sunday, the 12th, I preached in the parish church for the District Committee of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. The sum of 45*l.* was collected. In the afternoon of the same day, I confirmed 125 young persons; and in the evening I preached again in the same church,—being happy to afford some passing relief to the Clergy, who, in addition to their other manifold labours, have established a service by candle-light in the parish church, which at that time, by an understanding with the pew-holders, is thrown open for the accommodation of persons otherwise debarred from the privileges of worship in their own form.

The existing provisions in Montreal for affording the ministrations of the Church to the people, are lamentably insufficient; but one most happy addition to them has been very recently made. I have appointed the 20th of the present month of May, for the consecration of Trinity Chapel in that city, a very neat stone edifice, in the Gothic style, with a school-room and apartments for the clerk in the basement story, and with a residence for the minister attached to it. The Rev. Mr. Willoughby, who is known to the Board, is to serve this chapel, assisted by the Rev. Mr. Broome, whom I ordained in February last. By an arrangement with the Rector, they are to perform the surplice duties in the congregation attending it, and to be regarded as holding the spiritual charge of that body. They have also established a Sunday service in the common prison, which it was impossible for the Clergy to supply before. A Sunday-school will be connected with the chapel.

The whole expense of this undertaking has been borne by Major Christie, of Montreal, a gentleman of fortune, who, besides the outlay here, which, in a worldly point of view, will yield him comparatively a very small return, is about to engage in the erection of a church and school-room, with residences for the minister and for the schoolmaster and mistress, all forming one plan, and of uniform architecture, at Christieville, near St. John, where he intends to maintain a minister at his own charge. He also gives at Napierville, another seigniory belonging to him, a site of six acres, for the erection of a church and parsonage house, and for their requisite appendages, in the village, together with an endowment of 100 acres at the distance of a league.

Nor, if he should be spared by that God who has put it into his heart to give of his worldly things for such objects, will his liberalities, I am well persuaded, end here.

These are pleasing additions to some instances which I mentioned in my letter of the 12th July last, and which serve to show that while so much is done by the Society in England for the benefit of the church in these colonies, a good disposition in the same great cause is not wholly wanting upon the spot. I may here mention, respecting the Church of England Missionary Associations in Quebec and Montreal, that the latter maintains two travelling missionaries for its own district, and the former is prepared to do the same.

Major Christie is greatly interested respecting the extension of scriptural views of religion to such of the French Canadians as are accessible to any endeavours of this nature; and there is an active movement, although upon a confined scale, already proceeding under the direction of a gentleman from France, who came out as an agent of the Bible Society, but has united himself with our Church, and acts in the capacity of a catechist and Scripture reader. He has solicited a license from me, and looks forward to holy orders; nor have I any reason to believe that his pretensions are such as I shall not be glad to encourage. I expect to see him next week at Montreal. A little leaven appears to be at work, which may be destined ultimately to leaven the whole lump; and although I think nothing could be more unwise than to drive on, in a headlong manner, any attempts for the conversion of the French Canadians, I humbly conceive it to be the plain duty of the Church of England to open her arms to all who are willing to receive her embrace, and zealously, although prudently, to dispense the light of truth wherever opportunity is afforded for doing so.

On Monday, the 13th, I presided at a meeting of the District Committee of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, and matters, I trust, were put in train for some improvement in the affairs of that institution; and this was followed by a meeting of the congregation, at which I also presided, and which was very respectably attended, for securing some sufficient income to the Rev. D. Robertson, assistant minister of Montreal. A very good spirit was manifested, and a satisfactory arrangement was made.

I left Montreal on the following morning, accompanied by Mr. Willoughby, who, at my invitation, had undertaken to make the journey with me, in order to gain information, by personal inspection, of the wants of the people in point of education (the supply of those wants being the object of the Society whose agent he is,) and at the same time to act as my chaplain for the time. I had appointed a confirmation (the first which was ever held there,) at La Chine, nine miles from Montreal, and I administered that rite to fourteen young persons, in the neat little stone church which is served by Mr. Robertson, from Montreal. He came over to meet me. The rest of the day and the night we passed with Col. Wilgress, a retired officer of the R. A., and his family, very worthy and religious people, whose example and influence is, I believe, beneficial to the place.

On the 15th we proceeded up the Ottawa river, to St. Andrew's, making the whole distance of forty miles upon the ice, as I had before

done about one hundred of the distance between Quebec and Montreal. Forty persons were confirmed the next day in the church. The congregation and the number of communicants are, I believe, increasing. The weather was now most intensely cold; and several young persons who had been prepared for confirmation, but had not received their tickets, having called early at the house of the Clergyman for this purpose, they were all frost-bitten in some part or other of the face. They had come from some distance, and perhaps were not sufficiently protected. But a little friction soon restored the parts affected.

My next visit was to the Gore, seventeen miles distant from St. Andrew's, a rude part of the country, being most imperfectly supplied, which the Society have enabled me to make the seat of a mission. There having been before no Clergyman regularly in charge of it, this was the first episcopal visit, and truly it was an interesting scene. The service was held in a log-built schoolhouse, and the seats arranged for the occasion were rough boards, supported by still rougher block; one seat was the round body of a long birch tree, from which the bark had not been stripped. The building was thronged to excess. Only thirty persons, however, were confirmed; for although the whole population is Protestant, and, with very slight exceptions, of the Church of England, there is a backwardness and a sort of shyness about them in presenting themselves, on account of their having been so little habituated to regular ordinances, and many, as I was given to understand, deferred it till they should have had the opportunity of witnessing the administration of the rite to others. There is also a great disadvantage, which I am seeking to remedy, in the residence of the minister, at the distance of six miles, with a road interposed which, at some seasons, is excessively bad, even in the Canadian acceptation of the term. At present there is scarcely a house in the settlement where the family could manage to board and lodge him; and having undertaken to do their part towards the erection of a church, the settlers must get through with that enterprize before they can be called upon to engage in the building of a parsonage-house. They are wretchedly off for the means of educating their children; but matters were put in train by Mr. Willoughby for supplying their wants in this behalf.

On Saturday, the 18th, I proceeded up the river to Grenville, fifteen miles above St. Andrew's, making a détour, however, to visit Mrs. Hamilton, at Hawkesbury, on the opposite side, widow of the late Mr. Hamilton, who was a district judge, and who carried on the lumber trade upon a large scale. It is a very handsome and extensive establishment, and is still owned by his widow. A noble country is opening itself along the Ottawa, and up its tributary streams; and it is the lumber trade which acts as the pioneer to settlement, and thus progressively creates new demands for churches, ministers, and schools. Three members of Mrs. Hamilton's family were candidates for confirmation. I had a good deal of close conversation with them, and was well satisfied with the evidences of their preparation.

The Rev. S. S. Strong, missionary of the Society at Hull, with the charge of Bytown, in Upper Canada, attached, came down to Grenville to meet me. I did not comprehend his mission in this visitation, because, owing to unfortunate circumstances which preceded his appointment, there was no confirmation when I visited Hull and Bytown

in 1837, and I therefore held it for those two places towards the close of 1838, at the end of my visitation of Upper Canada. He has been happily instrumental in producing a new order of things.

There is not much to be said about Grenville. On Sunday morning, the 19th, I confirmed fourteen persons in the church, a small but neat and substantial edifice of stone. In the afternoon, on my way back to St. Andrew's, I preached in a small schoolhouse at Greece's Point, which was well filled, and at night to a large congregation in St. Andrew's church.

On the following morning, after some duties in the parish, which, for personal reasons, I was solicited to perform, I went on to Vandreuil, an appendage to the mission of the Rev. John Leeds, at the Côteau du Lac, but in fact much more important than that place. Here I was received at the house of Major Mathison, by whose hospitality I had also benefited upon a former occasion.

Forty-eight persons were confirmed in the little schoolhouse of this place on the morning of Tuesday, the 21st. The congregation consists chiefly of Cumberland people. They are engaged in the erection of a church upon a beautiful site; the site, however, has been a subject of much discussion, and this has greatly retarded the progress of the undertaking. I took great pains to unite the minds of the people, and I hope that it pleased God, in some measure, to bless my endeavours. The erection of the church is, I believe, now proceeding. The people are surrounded by French Roman Catholics; and during the rebellion, their situation was harassing in the extreme. They certainly manifested a very resolute English spirit, and were fortunate in having such an officer to head them as Major Mathison. I hope that there were among them those who felt that they could say, "The Lord of hosts is with us—the God of Jacob is our refuge."

In the evening we proceeded to the Côteau du Lac, distant from Vandreuil twenty miles. Here I found the Rev. G. Archbold,* who had come down from Cornwall, U. C., to meet me.

Nine persons only were confirmed the next morning in the church. The building, which is the property of government, presents in its exterior the appearance of a sashed wooden dwelling-house: the interior, however, is neatly and properly fitted up. As I generally addressed the young persons, after their confirmation, at considerable length, I left it upon most occasions to Mr. Willoughby, for the sake of affording some variety to the people, to preach to the congregation, and all which they heard from him was calculated to promote their spiritual good. He found through our whole tour abundance of demand for the peculiar work of that Society with whose interests he is officially charged.

A snow storm, of unusual violence, ushered in the morning of the 23d, and the person whom I had engaged to convey me to Huntingdon, on the Chateauguay river, refused to attempt crossing lake St. Francis. He alleged that there were airholes in the ice, which might be concealed from him in the blinding drift, and that the *valises* by which the proper track is marked out being at considerable intervals, he might be prevented from seeing some of them, and thus get out of his way. This

* The death of this valuable missionary was mentioned in the Society's Report for 1840, p. cviii.

was a sore disappointment, because I had fixed the confirmation at two o'clock this day at Huntingdon, and at eleven the next morning at Ormstown, a dozen miles further down the river Chateauguay, neither of which appointments would it be now possible to keep; and knowing that a good many of the people would assemble at both places, I felt very uneasy on account of my failing to meet them. But things were so ordered beyond any control of mine, and by a power which cannot err. We could not have more profitable company, in the mean time, than that of Mr. Archbold, and an opportunity was afforded of despatching letters to different parts of the diocese, in which he gave me his assistance.

On the 24th, the day was bright, and it had ceased to snow; but the fresh fallen snow of yesterday was drifted about by a keen north-west wind, and the effect was beautiful as it was swept rapidly, under the play of the sunbeams, along the level ice of the lake. I learnt at Huntingdon that, in the language of my Irish informant, "a good few" had assembled and dispersed the day before. One of the churchwardens from Ormstown had come up to meet me, and I went on with him without delay, in the hope of still catching some of the congregation, whom the Rev. W. Brethour, as he sent me word, had engaged to detain till three o'clock. The roads, however, were excessively heavy, and with every exertion I found it impossible to reach the church till after four. The people had all gone home. A few who lived close round were collected again, and a few stragglers from among the disappointed candidates of Huntingdon had followed me down. I confirmed altogether eight persons, and came to the close of the form just as it was getting too dark to read the prayers. Some of the Huntingdon people, who were not sufficiently protected against the weather, had suffered greatly from cold in their tedious progress through the road, and they had to measure their way back; but, in commending them for their exertions, I exhorted them cheerfully to endure this and greater things, if called upon, for their religion, and reminded them of the distant journeys which men were prompted to make under an inferior dispensation, to keep the ordinances of the Lord's house at Jerusalem.

Mr. Brethour received us into the unfinished log parsonage, which the people have built for him on the lot given by the Seigneur. The poverty of the missionaries in poor country stations, who, being family men, have only 100*l.* a year, and the evils in the Church consequent upon their depressed and struggling condition, are points which I have brought under the consideration of the Board in my letter of the 14th Feb., and I forbear to enlarge upon them here. I will mention, however, that it is my purpose, with the Divine permission, to endeavour to create a fund by means of the contributions of the more substantial church people within the diocese, out of which the poorer Clergy may make some small augmentation of their incomes. But this, whatever may be its success, must be a work of some time.

Mr. Brethour is certainly "worthy of his hire." He is a laborious missionary, and his second Sunday duty is performed in a settlement eight or nine miles from his church, which distance he performs in summer on foot, and returns afterwards in the same way, the only practicable road for carriages or horses being very much farther round. He would have presented, I believe, between forty and fifty persons for con-

firmation, but for the circumstances which I have described. Had I delayed in his mission to repair the disappointment, I should have broken the whole chain of my ulterior engagements, and could not have given notice in time in those places which came next in succession. I had now to push on to Russell-town Flats, and set out as early as vehicles could be collected on the morning of the 25th. We were later than the appointment, but the people were all waiting. I was now in a tract of country which neither I nor my predecessors in the episcopate had ever visited, and which had been most sparingly supplied with the ministrations of the Church, by the visits, not so often as once a year, of some Clergyman, whose expenses were paid by the late Bishop out of his own pocket. In this tract, the Montreal Missionary Society of the Church maintain a travelling missionary, the Rev. W. Davis, who has established eighteen stations, dividing his labours among which, he officiates and preaches twenty-five times every four weeks, including some few services performed in part for the troops which are quartered at certain posts in the neighbourhood. In addition to these labours he is much engaged in domestic visiting among the poor settlers, and penetrates into their clearings within the forest, where a horse cannot pass. The spirit by which he is animated may be declared by these facts. But his physical strength is scarcely equal to such exertions, and I am very anxiously looking forward to an opportunity of assigning, by means of the bounty of the Society, according to your gratifying communication of the 30th November, a share of his labours to other hands.

Mr. Davis had made the arrangements for the confirmation remarkably well in a great store, where I administered the rite to forty-one persons. There would have been more, but the by-roads were in some places not yet passable. On a hill near the little village, stands (which is not a very uncommon spectacle in these colonies,) a place of worship, commenced some years ago, but unfinished and unappropriated. It is possible that through the Divine blessing upon the faithful labours of Mr. Davis, it may come into the hands of the Church.

We dined with a Capt. M'Gee, of the volunteers, who kindly drove me in the evening fifteen miles farther, to Col. Schriver's, in Hemmingford. Col. Schriver is a person who, partly by persevering industry, which from very early experience he knew how to apply to advantage in the woods, and partly by means of a compensation in land, for services rendered in the war of 1812—1815 with America, has acquired a handsome property. He has had a very active part in suppressing the movements of the late rebellion upon this frontier, and he is a religious, as well as a loyal man. The edifice for public worship, which stands near his house, has been built chiefly at his own expense, and he admits into it whom he pleases. He is attached, however, to the Methodists, but perfectly well affected towards the Church, and he caused some preparations to be made within the building expressly to adapt it to the occasion of confirmation.

On Sunday morning, the 26th, there being no vestry-room, we went to robe in a house opposite to this building, occupied by the officer commanding the detachment of volunteer cavalry. About four hundred persons were present at the morning service. Sixty-five were confirmed: fifteen candidates disappointed, from the reason stated in the case of

Russell-town Flats. Two or three of the troopers were among the recipients of the solemn rite. I preached to a small congregation in the afternoon.

On Monday, accompanied by Mr. Davis, we went to Napierville, eighteen miles from Hemmingford, making two stops by the way, one to decide upon the site of a church, about three miles from Hemmingford, another to inspect a half finished church, of small dimensions, but built of stone, and likely to be of respectable appearance, in Sherrington. Napierville is principally inhabited by French Roman Catholics. It is at present a small military post, and a station for a small mounted despatch corps. The county court-house, now used as a barrack, was converted into a prison for the loyalists in some of the short-lived successes of the rebels; and some houses in the village, which were fired during the troubles, exhibit farther evidences of the unhappy changes which have been wrought in the condition of a peaceful peasantry by the devices of wicked men. But God brought their counsel to nought. Too little is his hand acknowledged by those who have been protected and preserved. This prevailing insensibility furnishes, however, an additional motive for seeking to plant and extend those ministrations of the Church which may engender more just and lively impressions of the dealings of God in providence as well as in grace.

I was received most kindly by Col. and Mrs. Taylor, and became their guest during my stay. Col. Taylor is an officer of the British army, on particular service, and commands within certain limits, of which the head-quarters are at Napierville. I have mentioned before the intentions of the seigneur for the benefit of the Church. At present divine service is held in a school-house, which, under the direction of Mr. Davis, had been very well fitted up for the occasion of the day, and in which I confirmed forty-one persons. Several of the candidates were unable to reach the place.

Col. Taylor drove me the next morning (Tuesday, 28th,) to Odalltown and La Colle, the rest of my party following us. Two battle fields were pointed out to us, one of which was the scene of an action fought with the rebels. At the former place there is a troop of volunteer cavalry, to whom Mr. Davis officiates. The object of the drive was to make choice of two or three different sites offered for the erection of a church and parsonage, Mr. Hotchkis, an American, who is established in a prosperous way at La Colle, having given me this option: I pitched upon an eligible situation close to the village, where he consented to give me an acre, worth, I think, about 150 dollars. Thus there are four churches either in immediate contemplation or in actual progress within the range of the labours of Mr. Davis, and more will follow. Mr. Davis had been in his charge at this time about fifteen months.

On the 29th, Col. Taylor drove me to La Prairie, (eighteen miles.) The little Protestant church has been much improved, in consequence of exertions made by the Rev. W. Arnold, in which he has been kindly and liberally seconded by Col. Johnson, who commands one of the regiments quartered at the station. A gallery has been built, to add to the accommodation; but the church still wants much to make it complete; and I am afraid that I stand engaged to give assistance in other quarters to the full extent of the Society's grant of 500*l*. Churches

(God be praised for it!) are springing up so fast, that I must beg for more help as soon as I shall have forwarded the account of money already paid or promised. A word of encouragement from the Board in the mean time will have a cheering effect.

Twenty-seven persons were here confirmed, including three from Chateauguay Basin, who had been prevented from meeting me at Ormstown, brought by Mr. Brethour himself. They came fifteen miles. He came *about forty* to bring them, and *went immediately back with them.* A few of the soldiery were confirmed.

It was on the following morning, before I left La Prairie, that I received the announcement of aid granted towards the erection of churches, together with the refreshing intelligence that the Society, more than I had dared to hope for, had undertaken to maintain the eighteen new missions which I had stated to be required. God only raise up for us faithful men to fill them up, and to preach among the destitute the unsearchable riches of Christ!

In the afternoon I confirmed twelve persons in the church of Chambly, fifteen miles from La Prairie. The congregation is small and scattered. The Rev. Joseph Braithwaite, I believe, takes all the pains with them which, having the charge of a school, it is possible for him to bestow. There is a large military force here; but it was stated to me that a great portion of it had been recently quartered in Ireland, where the opportunity of confirmation had presented itself. None of the military were confirmed.

After some rain on the preceding day, it froze hard again on the 31st, and the road to St. John, a distance of twelve miles, running in part upon the canal, was in an admirable state for travelling. At this place I confirmed twenty-three persons in the parish church. The Rev. W. Arnold, who assists in this parish, besides serving from hence the church at La Prairie, has, I trust, afforded valuable help to the Rector. I I visited Mrs. Arnold, who was lying in a suffering and languishing condition, which has since terminated in a happy and exemplary death. Mr. Forest, the catechist of the Society, who attends to some destitute places in this neighbourhood, has the charge of some Indian youths, who, both intellectually, morally, and spiritually, appear to have greatly benefited by his instructions. His own son, a youth of seventeen, is receiving a classical education at the Montreal Royal Grammar School, and will become a very proper subject for the aid voted by the Society for students in theology. He appears to be marked out for the ministry, upon which his heart is fully set, and it will be out of the power of his father to provide for him till he shall be of the age to receive orders.

Feb. 1st.—I had informed the Rev. Mr. Beldury, who visits the Isle aux Noix, as acting chaplain to the forces, that I would take that station in my route, if he should have any subjects for confirmation among the troops. A few were reported as prepared; and I accordingly proceeded, twelve miles up the river, to the island. Having crossed a drawbridge, and passed under a small arched gateway within the fortifications, I went to the quarters of the commanding officer, Col. Senior, who, with his lady, received me very kindly, and appears to take much interest in the welfare of the men under his command. There is a small wooden church, or rather military chapel, at some distance

upon the island, where about 150 persons were assembled, and six were confirmed. One poor drum-boy, a nice looking English lad, presenting himself without a ticket, was of course rejected; but Col. Senior very cheerfully gave me permission afterwards to take him on with me to Christie Manor, where the confirmation was to be held the next day (being Sunday), and Mr. Willoughby taking him into his own carriage, examined him by the way, and reported him well prepared. The colonel gave him an excellent character.

I visited the regimental school, which appeared to be exceedingly well conducted, and in which I found in use the publications of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. The officers of the regiment invited me, with my companion, to a handsome collation, prepared for the occasion in the mess-room.

Christie Manor, now called Clarenceville, where the Rev. M. Townsend resides, is, I think, six miles from the island. On Sunday morning, 2d Feb., I preached at his second church, situated a few miles off, at Caldwell Manor, and in the afternoon held the confirmation in Clarenceville church, in which a very large congregation assembled, and sixty-eight persons were confirmed.

At Philipsburgh, on the day following, the Rev. R. Whitwell brought forward fifty-four candidates, to five of whom he previously administered in the congregation the solemn ceremony of adult baptism. It must not be inferred from the close conjunction of the two administrations, that the thing was done slightly or in a hurried manner. I rather believe that the very serious views entertained by the parties of their preparation for baptism, caused them to be thus slow in coming to the point. In both these missions there has been a great increase since my last confirmations in the number of candidates. The military operations conducted along this frontier, in consequence of its being infested by the brigands, who assumed the name of *sympathizers*, from the American side of the lines, have in some respects been hurtful to the morals of the people; but in not a few instances the Clergy assure me that their familiarity with scenes of danger and death, and their experience of gracious protection, have worked a most happy effect.

Troops were scattered along all this part of my route. Regiments of the line are not employed at the posts contiguous to the frontier, on account of the temptations to desertion; and the irregular troops being less under discipline, and formed in part out of the more idle population of the cities, are by no means desirable inhabitants of country villages. A pretty grove, which overhung the village of Philipsburgh, has been cut down, and a block-house erected upon the site: the village school-house has been converted into a barrack, and no other place has yet been found to assemble the children for their education. Under all these circumstances of disadvantage, the Society may be assured that the residence of their Missionaries among the people, and their endeavours as well to oppose to them a counter-influence, as to improve the seasons of calamity which have occurred, is a blessing which, through the goodness of God, is not unfelt.

I proceeded on the 4th to Bedford, in Stanbridge, eight miles from Philipsburgh, the mission of the Rev. R. P. Balfe, formerly a Roman-catholic priest, and at one time greatly harassed by a conspiracy to blast his character, the fruit of the resentment of the church of Rome,

from which, however, he came out clear. I met a good congregation, and confirmed twenty persons, in a very neat brick church, fitted up in a manner which really was singularly tasteful, with decorations of evergreens, in honour of Christmas. Great pains are here taken with the singing. The mission labours, however, under many difficulties—it abounds in distilleries, which always help to demoralize their neighbourhood; and at the upper village, where the second church is situated, (another excellent brick building,) there was, till very lately, a printing-press, employed for the worst purposes; and there is still an abounding leaven of evil principle in politics and religion. That church is, for the present, shut up. In the evening, I went on, ten miles farther, to Frelighsburgh, or St. Armand East, the mission of the Rev. James Reid.

On the day following I confirmed eighteen persons in Mr. Reid's church. I received a visit from an American Clergyman from the diocese of Vermont, where, as elsewhere in the United States, the Church is prosperously extending itself; and its ministers and people in that country are invariably solicitous to maintain brotherly correspondence and communion with us. A Mr. Ferris, who is a Scotch Episcopalian, and a graduate of Aberdeen, resident in the township of Sutton, was presented to me by Mr. Reid, and mentioned as likely to be profitable in the ministry, if ordained. He is acting as a lay-reader with acceptance. I have since had some correspondence with Mr. Reid and Mr. Ferris himself upon the subject; and, relying upon the recommendation of Mr. Reid, who is a person of solid judgment, as well as serious views of ministerial responsibility, I have admitted Mr. Ferris upon the list of aspirants, to benefit by the Society's grant. Without this, as he is obliged to give up other employments, he could not have prosecuted his studies, which Mr. Reid has undertaken to direct.

On the 6th, Mr. Reid conveyed me to Dunham church, (six miles,) where I confirmed twenty-seven persons. In the neighbourhood of this church are several branches of a substantial family, of the name of Baker, remarkable for their loyalty and good Churchmanship. To them it is always a pleasure to show hospitality and attention to the ministers of God who come among them. They conveyed me on to the Rev. C. C. Cotton's, six miles beyond the church.

I was indebted for the same kindness to Mr. Cotton himself on the 7th, his sleigh being placed at my disposal to proceed eighteen miles farther, to Shefford, the mission of the Rev. A. Balfour. I stopped, however, on the way, to hold a confirmation in West Shefford church, where that gentleman met me. Here nineteen candidates presented themselves: some few of them were advanced in life. They all appeared seriously impressed; and I am indeed thankful to say, that a deep reverence, and deliberate self-dedication to Christ, did seem very generally to characterise the candidates in the different places which I visited; and I cannot but hope that, in many instances, their future walk will evince their sincerity in this important act of their lives.

I went to see old Mrs. Wood, close by this church, whom I remember to have mentioned in a former communication to the Society. She has upwards of sixty grandchildren. If her principles should, by God's blessing, prove hereditary, like those of Lois and Eunice, the Church will be happy in her numerous descendants.

Mr. Balfour received me in his parsonage at Waterloo Village; and here I met the Rev. C. L. F. Hacusel, formerly in the service of the Church Missionary Society at Sierra Leone, and latterly of the American diocese of Ohio. I had been happy to obtain for this valuable man an appointment to a school at Froste Village, in the same township; and thus, by means of his voluntary services on Sundays, to provide for a portion of that ground which all the hard exertions of Mr. Balfour could not cover. Mr. Balfour is not strong in constitution; and his health, I fear, has suffered from his labours.

As, in order to visit Abbotsford, and go thence to Hatley, I had here to come back to the same point, my remaining duties in Shefford were reserved for the 11th; and I prepared on the morning of the 8th to set out for Abbotsford, distant twenty-one miles. Four volunteer troopers in uniform rode up to the gate of the parsonage, and I was informed by the captain of the troop, that Colonel Nickle, of the army, who commands the district, had given orders that I should be thus escorted to Abbotsford and back; that four more were then to escort me from Waterloo Village to the outlet of Lake Memphrenagog, where a guard of honour, consisting of half a troop, would proceed with me, about a dozen miles, to Charlston Village, in Hatley. I wish to record this instance of Colonel Nickle's solicitude to do honour to my office, (to myself personally he was a total stranger;) but with the fullest appreciation of his motives, and sense of obligation to his kindness, I felt it necessary to decline the compliment. I was fully convinced that, considering the peculiar state of local feelings and prejudices, my acceptance of it would have had a hurtful effect, and that the adversaries of the Church would not have failed to point to such an escort attending upon a minister of the Gospel of peace, as serving to indicate that the prelacy of England was supported by the sword. I sent off one of the troopers, therefore, as an express to Colonel Nickle at Hatley, thirty-eight miles off, with a note of acknowledgment, excusing myself at the same time from the intended honour.

About half way to Abbotsford, I stopped and preached in a school-house in Granby Village, a place in which a church is immediately about to be erected, and which I have proposed to the Society as a missionary station. It has been served, upon occasion, by the ministers of Shefford on the one side, and Abbotsford on the other. This little village, of recent formation, is torn by religious factions—the Congregationalists themselves having divided into two parts, each with its own minister, although neither yet provided with a place of worship. It is an undeniable and a consolatory fact, that this sort of spirit, with reference to other religious bodies, does not characterise the proceedings of those who promote the establishment of the Church in the colony; but how much higher would be the consolation, if all could unite with her in a spirit of christian love!

On Sunday, the 9th, two services were held in the church at Abbotsford, at the former of which forty-four persons were confirmed. The state of the Rev. Thomas Johnson's health has compelled him to discontinue his attendance upon some of the out-stations which he had established. He appears to be deeply anxious about the prosperity of his charge. The church was very full in the morning. I saw some respectable inhabitants from Milton, who gave a deplorable account of the destitution

of that township, both as it respects religious instruction and education. Milton will form an appendage to the mission of Granby, whenever it shall please God that I am enabled to establish that mission.

On the next day, according to an appointment made by Mr. Balfour, to whom I had given a discretion for the purpose, I preached, on my way back to Shefford, at Cutler's school-house, fifteen miles from Abbotsford. Although it had rained all night, and continued raining all day, which made the snow-roads very bad, there was a good attendance in this little building, and one very pleasing incident occurred. Two young Irish girls, sisters, had come from Milton the day before, with tickets for confirmation, to Abbotsford; but having, in consequence of misinformation as to the place, gone a vast way round, they arrived after all was over, and I heard nothing about them till after they had gone home again. Mr. Johnson, however, had told them to meet me at Cutler's school-house the next day. Considering their long journey, their disappointment after all their efforts, the rain, and the state of the roads, as well as the distance between Milton and the school-house, I expected that they would give it up. They came, however; and as I spoke a few simple words of exhortation to them after they had been confirmed, the two standing together alone, (for no confirmation had been appointed at the place,) the tears rolled down their cheeks. These little incidents serve to show what feeling there is to work upon in the bosoms of poor settlers in the woods, and "who hath despised the day of small things?" I shall have some other similar instances to record; and, however humble may be the tale, they surely afford a stimulus to provide for the religious wants of our colonial population.

In the evening, I preached in the school-house in Waterloo Village, where Mr. Balfour resides, but where no church has yet been erected. The day following (Feb. 11th) was fixed for the confirmation at Froste Village, in a church, which by a faulty and objectionable arrangement, not subsisting in any other place in the diocese, is held in copartnership with the Methodists. The congregation was very large, and twenty-five persons were confirmed,* making, with those at West Shefford, forty-four in the mission of Mr. Balfour. Three years before, only six persons prepared themselves in this mission, of whom two were prevented from coming forward. In the afternoon I preached to about seventy persons, in a school-house in Stukeley, where there was a bed in one corner of the room.

The 12th was occupied by the journey to Hatley, about thirty-four miles from Froste Village, and some calls on families living along the road, who belong to the Church. The only place of worship which we passed was an unfinished little building, of neat construction, with a spire, held between the Universalists and Close-communion Baptists. As the people, in these cases, generally attend the preaching of both parties, it may be conceived what sort of edification they are likely to

* Two respectable young persons, of different sexes, came to me into the vestry-room, introduced by Mr. Balfour, soliciting, with tears, the blessing of confirmation although circumstances had prevented them from being examined. The young man I was obliged to refer to a future opportunity: the other, upon Mr. Balfour's stating that he had had opportunities of being particularly acquainted with her, and was fully satisfied as to her seriousness of purpose and religious attainments, I consented to admit.

derive from such an arrangement. The work, however, is at a stand, and a great indifference to religion appears to pervade the spot.

I became the guest of the Rev. Christopher Jackson, at Hatley, and had an opportunity, at his house, of renewing my acknowledgments in person to Colonel Nickle.

Thirty-one persons were confirmed the next day in the church of Charleston Village, in Hatley. After partaking of some refreshment at Colonel Nickle's quarters, and visiting some old acquaintances in the village, I proceeded, in conveyances provided by Mr. Jackson, to Lennoxville, about twenty miles, and divided the time during my stay between a pretty cottage of Mrs. Jackson's at this place, and the parsonage-house, occupied by the Rev. L. and Mrs. Doolittle. I spent three days here, and it was a busy time; for besides an examination of candidates for orders, the ordination itself, at Sherbrooke, on Sunday morning, the 16th, and the confirmation at Lennoxville of forty persons, in the afternoon of the same day,—some extra public services were held for the benefit of the people, who, not seeing many of our Clergy, desire that the opportunity should be turned to account, when several of them happen to be collected together. During the service at Lennoxville on Saturday, an adult was baptized—a respectable American, all the members of whose family had previously been recipients of the same rite, and he, with them, was confirmed on Sunday. Five Clergymen assisted me in the ordination: four were ordained, two deacons and two priests. Of the deacons, I have already mentioned Mr. Broome: Mr. King was a schoolmaster and lay-reader in connexion with the British North American School Society, and finding him pious, laborious, and sufficiently qualified, I adopted him to succeed the Rev. C. P. Reid in the mission of Robinson and Victoria among the Land Company's settlers, a charge to which I believe him to be very well suited. Mr. Reid has removed to Compton, a place where the people, some twenty years ago, built a church in expectation of a resident minister, but have never been otherwise served than from Hatley in the afternoon. The authority from the Board, which comprehends the power to make this an independent station, was received providentially at a critical time; and much, if not every thing, would have been lost at Compton, if I had been obliged to reject the last application from the inhabitants for their long-expected boon. No person can be more adapted than Mr. Reid, who has been familiar with the Americans of our townships from infancy, to the nature of the charge at Compton; and I trust he will be prospered in the execution of it. These arrangements respecting Mr. King and Mr. Reid, the Board will, I hope, approve.

The gentlemen admitted to priests' orders, were Mr. Willoughby and Mr. Dawes. They both preached during my stay. Altogether, the various services which were performed produced quite a sensation in the place and neighbourhood, and the effect was very favourable to the Church. Something orderly, something solemn, was observed; something having a character of consistency and stability, an air of legitimacy and a face of authority, not belonging to some other religious proceedings; and all this, combined with that strain of simple evangelical piety which runs through all the offices of the Church, created, as I was assured, a marked impression.

I was glad upon this, as I had been upon some other similar occa-

sions, to be fortified by an opinion furnished by the late Chief-Justice of the province to Bishop Stewart, with reference to the rule that Bishops must ordain in the cathedral of the diocese or in the parish where they reside, giving a large and liberal construction to the latter alternative. I mention this, in order that the Board may not suppose any disposition to exist in the Canadian Church to commit needless irregularities. An adherence to a more rigid interpretation of the rule would, in some instances which I could name, have been productive of monstrous inconvenience.

On the 17th, I was driven by Colonel Morris, (an excellent old gentleman, and the head of an exemplary family,) to Eaton, fourteen miles, where I confirmed fourteen persons in the church. I took up my quarters, as upon a former occasion, with Mr. Slack, an officer who has retired from the Royal Navy—a religious man, whose example and influence have much benefited the neighbourhood. The health of the Rev. Jonathan Taylor is in some measure declining; and he does not appear to be equal to the exertions which he would desire to make.

Mr. Slack drove me the next morning to Robinson, in Bury, nine miles, which forms the chief settlement of the Land Company. Here I met a large congregation, in a spacious, good-looking school-house, built by the Company, and supplied by the British North American School Society, which is used also for public worship. The settlers are almost all English, but only seven were confirmed, in consequence of the poverty of the families, which obliges them to send out their young people, about the age at which they are fitted to present themselves, to seek places about the country. The Rev. C. P. Reid was then in charge, and his labours, seconded by those of Mr. Broome, acting as a lay-reader in some of the settlements, and conducting the school upon scriptural and Church principles, would have produced, I doubt not, a large confirmation, but for the circumstance which I have just stated.

The troubles of the country have greatly impeded the operations of the Company; but they have broken with effect into the heart of the wilderness, and I trust that (although not by their means) a good foundation has been laid with reference to the religious character of the population. The missions of the Society are blessings indeed in such places; and only second to them are such schools as that which is established in Bury.

I returned to Sherbrooke on the 19th, when I made arrangements with Mr. Lloyd, a very pious half-pay officer of the navy, and at one time of Jesus College, Cambridge, to supply the place of Mr. King, ordained to the charge of Bury and Victoria, at Brompton, below Sherbrooke, where the latter gentleman had acted as lay-reader. The services of Mr. Lloyd are gratuitous.

Mr. Slack, who had brought me from Eaton, drove me on the next day to Melbourne, about twenty-three miles, where we were received at the house of the Rev. C. B. Fleming, who has lately become the brother-in-law of Mrs. Slack. On the following morning I confirmed twenty-nine persons in the church of Shipton, on the opposite side of the River St. Francis; and, in the afternoon, preached at a school-house in the Gallup District, in the back-part of Melbourne. There were good congregations in both places.

Mr. Fleming serves five stations widely apart from each other, and is

very active. The church in Durham, six miles below his residence, of which his exertions have promoted the erection, was now ready for consecration. Accordingly, on the 22d, I went down to consecrate it, and also to hold a confirmation. It is a small wooden building, capable of accommodating something more, I should think, than two hundred and fifty persons, but conveniently fitted up. Five Clergymen attended to assist me. The place was much crowded; and I hope that, by the Divine blessing, the solemn and affecting prayers of the consecration-service, with reference to the uses of the building, and its benefit to successive growths of population, will be found to have prevailed in the name of Christ. I went on afterwards to the residence of Captain Cox, in the township of Kingsey, on the other side of the river, about six or seven miles from Durham church, the new mission to which the Rev. Richard Lonsdell has been appointed; and for the erection of a church in which, as well as a parsonage-house, Captain Cox has made very great exertions, now in fair train to be crowned with success. Captain Cox is a half-pay officer of the army, and, no less than his lady, is desirous of promoting the interests of religion and education among the people.

On the 23d, which was Sunday, I confirmed twenty-seven persons, in a very incommodious school-house. Mr. Willoughby had left me the day before, being under the necessity of returning to Montreal. The Rev. G. McLeod Ross, however, who had come up from Drummondville for the consecration at Durham, kindly accompanied me to Kingsey. There had been a protracted contention in the township upon a subject too fruitful in such divisions of sentiment, however alien it may seem from them—the site of the house of God. Captain Cox, although he had raised almost all the money for the building, and his relative, Mr. Longman, had given an endowment of fifty acres, abstained from endeavouring to influence my judgment. I addressed the people in a body, endeavouring to impress upon them the feelings, principles, and motives with which they should approach such a question, and to prepare them to abide by my own decision, which I trusted that they would at least believe to be impartial. This decision I was to render after an inspection of the localities.

The school-house was excessively crowded; and some of the young persons confirmed were very deeply and visibly affected. Captain Cox drove me from the door, Mr. Lonsdell following, to the settlement in the rear of the township, upwards of a dozen miles off, where the latter gentleman preaches every Sunday afternoon. The roads were bad enough in consequence of the thaw and rain, and we had much difficulty in keeping ourselves dry in the sleighs, as we crossed some swollen brooks; but this was very little, indeed, compared with the labour of accomplishing the same distance in Mr. Lonsdell's visits, during wet seasons, upon the summer-roads, floundering along through bogs and swamps. The back settlements consist of an Irish population, much attached to the Church, and personally to Mr. Lonsdell. I preached by candle-light to a good congregation, in an unfinished appendage to a dwelling-house, roughly fitted-up for public worship. The rain increasing, and the night being very dark, we were obliged to remain in the settlement till the morning; and we were indebted to the warm-hearted Irish hospitality, heightened by religious principle, of a thriving farmer and his family, who are among the principal settlers. I was very

thankful that I was enabled to pay this visit, for the people appeared to receive it in the best possible spirit.

Early in the morning of the 24th, I returned with Captain Cox to his residence, and thence proceeded with the Rev. G. M. Ross to his charge at Drummondville. We had to cross the River St. Francis, and it may possibly be worth while to describe, as characteristic of the country, a little difficulty which we encountered. The ice on this river does not form so well for travelling as upon some others, and the late thaw and rain had made it rather awkward to get on and off at the shore on either side, there being an open space of running water to be crossed. On the Kingsey side, we procured the assistance of some men and boys, who, first sounding with poles, proceeded to lay some planks across the opening, upon which they obliged the horse to walk, and they drew over the sleigh themselves. In effecting the landing on the opposite side, we found the opening too wide for this contrivance; but here we met with an old canoe, half-filled with ice, and in this our party crossed, in small divisions, the horse being made to swim.

It was in Durham that we landed, the same township in the upper part of which I had consecrated, on the 22d, the church of which Mr. Fleming had procured the erection. The lower half of the township forms an appendage to the charge of Mr. Ross, who regularly performs the evening service in a school-house, distant about a dozen miles from his church at Drummondville. Here I met some of the leading inhabitants, and made arrangements with them respecting the site of a church, which they are about to erect, and to which a burying-ground and a glebe will be attached. We then entered "the long-woods;" and upon reaching Drummondville I took up my quarters, as upon several former occasions, in the absence of its hospitable lord, at the house of Colonel Heriot, an officer of the British army, and provincial aide-de-camp to the Governor-General, who is a great proprietor in this neighbourhood, and has been a benefactor to the Church.

In this church I held a confirmation on the 25th. There was a good attendance, and thirty were confirmed. The deportment of the young persons was very pleasing; and there was an instance among them of commendable zeal, which I am happy to record. A young lad, who was working in a shanty, thirty miles off, with a party of lumber-men, and earning high wages, not only came down on foot to be confirmed, but came to his own family a week beforehand, sacrificing the profits of that week, to spend it in study and preparation,—and this in opposition to the strong remonstrances of his companions.

On the 26th, accompanied by Mr. Ross, I went down to Nicolet, on the south shore of the St. Lawrence, thirty-three miles from Drummondville, and we were received with a kindness very familiar to the Clergy who travel this road, by Captain and Mrs. Chandler, at the manor-house. On the day following, I confirmed thirteen persons in the church, which is a small stone building, of a remarkably neat appearance. The charge of Mr. Burgess is very scattered, amidst an old Roman-catholic population. He uses his endeavours to gather them together, and to keep them in the fold. Mr. Ross drove me on the 28th to Sorel, thirty-three miles up the St. Lawrence from Nicolet, the last fifteen of which were performed upon the ice. The Rev. W. Anderson received us both.

Three services were held in the church on Sunday, the 1st of March. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered, and a confirmation was held. The church at the morning service was exceedingly full, rather less so in the afternoon and evening, on account of the dispersed location of the attendants.

The next day, taking leave of Mr. Ross, and carrying Mr. Anderson in my company I crossed to the north shore of the St. Lawrence, and proceeded to Mascouche, in the district of Montreal, the whole distance to Repentigny, twenty-seven miles, being performed upon the ice. We breakfasted by the way with Mrs. Cuthbert and the ladies of her family, excellent people, and steadfast members of the Church, living upon their own seignior of La Nozaye. Fifteen miles, after leaving Repentigny, brought us to the seigniorial house of Mascouche, the residence of the Hon. J. Pangman, a member of the legislative council,—a beautiful spot in summer, occupying a little irregular valley, sunk among woods and swelling hills, and traversed by a winding stream, which turns the seigniorial mill. Here I was met by the Rev. Mr. Willoughby from Montreal, the Rev. R. H. Bourne from Rawdon, and the Rev. Mr. Maning, a missionary of the Montreal Association, at present making his headquarters upon the spot, in preparation for consecrating the church. These three gentlemen, as well as Mr. Anderson and myself, became guests at the manor-house. Mr. Pangman had also sent over to Montreal, twenty-five miles, for Mr. Willoughby, whom he afterwards sent back, besides providing for my conveyance to Rawdon at the same distance, in another direction, from Mascouche. I mention these little circumstances, as pleasing evidences, in their way, of the good feeling which prevails towards the Church.

On the 3d of March, I consecrated the little church, which was very full. It is a plain wooden edifice, but commodiously fitted-up. The expense of its erection falls chiefly upon Mr. Pangman, who also gives a site for a parsonage-house, which is about to be built. I then went on, through St. Lin, to the township of Rawdon, accompanied by Mr. Anderson and Mr. Bourne, and slept at the parsonage.

[I omitted to say, that there was no confirmation at Mascouche, everything being very new there, as it respects the settled ministrations of the Church. Mr. Bourne had paid the people such occasional attention as was compatible with his other constant and extensive labours, and thus paved the way for Mr. Maning, whose zeal has been highly appreciated in the whole neighbourhood.]

On the 4th the confirmation took place. The church was so thronged, that one man described himself as having been [illegible] quarter of an hour with his person half in and half out of the door, without being able to move an inch. Ninety-one persons were confirmed—six of whom, on account of the crowd and some confusion in the lower end of the church, did not get forward at the proper time, nor make known their disappointment till after my robes were packed up again, and I was leaving the church. The little trouble, however, of again putting on my vestments, and administering a separate confirmation to them, was well repaid by their thankfulness, and better still by the very deep marks of feeling which they evinced as recipients of the rite.

Mr. Bourne, who is a highly conscientious Clergyman, was much distressed in mind, in preparing his people for the occasion, between the

fear of admitting the applicants too easily, and unadvisedly repelling them, and was still apprehensive that in various cases he might have erred. His very anxiety, however, was a kind of security for his keeping a due medium—and I am persuaded that, upon the whole, his part had been properly done—since much, after all, must be left to be settled between the individuals and their God.

I proceeded afterwards, in company with the same two Clergymen, to sleep at St. Elizabeth, twenty-one miles from Rawdon, where we put up with the only family in the place which is wholly Protestant. Mr. Bourne was on his way to keep a stated appointment at L'Assumption, where there is a small Protestant congregation.

The next morning I went alone to Lake Mashinongé, a distance of twenty-four miles. A great part of the road lies through the woods, in the depth of which I met a Roman-catholic funeral-party. Lake Mashinongé is a rude and obscure settlement, never before visited by a Bishop, attached to the charge of the Rev. N. Guérout, who had come over to meet me from the Rivière du Loup. The simplicity of a boy, of whom I inquired for Mr. Guérout, was rather characteristic of the state of things in the settlement. He informed me that the minister was "at uncle David's," a person whom, apparently, he presumed to be sufficiently described to anybody by that appellation. With uncle David I accordingly put up, at one of the houses scattered along the lake shore; and under his roof, in a room which had a bed in one corner, roughly fitted-up with temporary seats for the congregation, and conveniences for the performance of the service, I preached and confirmed fifteen young persons. All the congregation knelt in prayer; all made the responses; and all who were able took part in the singing. Nothing can exceed their respect and kindness towards their Clergy. Mr. Benson, the catechist, for some years stationed among them, has been obliged to move away, their poverty not enabling them to support the school, from which, as from others similarly situated, the government salary has been withdrawn since the distractions of the country commenced, and he finding it impossible to live upon his stipend as catechist. He still visits them upon Sundays; and Mr. Guérout, who lives twenty-four miles off, separated, in summer, by a desperate kind of road, has made arrangements also for affording them his ministrations at stated intervals. The great evil of the settlement and neighbourhood is intermarriage with Roman Catholics. After the confirmation, I went with Mr. Guérout to the Rivière du Loup, on the shore of the St. Lawrence, which here expands itself into Lake St. Peter. Almost our whole length of way was through wild woods, by a road which barely admitted the passage of our vehicles. Mr. Guérout received me at his own house.

The next day I held a confirmation in the diminutive Protestant church, which is of stone, and substantially built. Only ten persons were confirmed. Between forty and fifty were present. The same cause which I have just mentioned, as operating injuriously at the Lake settlement, has been here felt in a similar manner; and the very interrupted ministrations which have been heretofore afforded to our people since the formation of the mission, have but imperfectly counteracted the mischief. Some instances of defection have occurred; and some minds have wavered between two opinions: in other examples, much

domestic persecution has been faithfully endured, and priestly importunity has been withstood. An aged Englishwoman came to see me, who lives at Machiche, (for the Protestants who make up the little congregation are in part sprinkled about the surrounding Roman-catholic parishes,) and her peculiar circumstances, as she described them to me, might well warrant her appropriation of the Psalmist's lament,—"Woe is me, that I am constrained to dwell with Mesech, and to have my habitation among the tents of Kedar!"

At the Crête de Coq, I think about nine miles in the rear of the Rivière du Loup, which we passed through in coming from the Lake, there is something like a body, although a small one, of Protestant settlers. The labours of Mr. Guérout promise well: he is both discreet and assiduous, and the word of truth in his hands is the more likely to prevail, because his kind and accessible manners serve to disarm the jealousy and violence which the Protestant minister has sometimes to encounter in what may be called *mixed* families.

I proceeded in the evening to Three Rivers, about twenty-two miles. It drifted violently, and was bitterly cold.

The next day, being Sunday the 8th, I confirmed, and preached twice, in the parish church of Three Rivers. The place was then under the temporary charge of the Rev. Mr. Hacusel, whom I have mentioned in the account of my visit to Shefford, his engagement at the Froste Village school having expired, and the Rector of Three Rivers being on leave of absence in England.

And thus concludes the account of my visitation in the Districts of Montreal, Three Rivers, and St. Francis. Within this tract of country I held thirty-eight confirmations. In 1837, there were twenty-two, exclusive of Three Rivers and Nicolet, for the late Bishop had then very recently held a confirmation at the former place. Within the same limits, there are ten more Clergymen employed than in 1837, four of whom are Missionaries of the Society; and about the same number of new churches are built or in progress, or in immediate contemplation. The confirmations, in general, have been very considerably larger than in that year.

I expect that the district of Quebec will exhibit about eleven confirmations, being an increase of seven upon those performed in the visitation of 1837-8. In Gaspé there will probably be eight, as before. Some of the confirmations in the Quebec district will be very small. The whole Protestant population of Lower Canada is not of any imposing magnitude: but it has a root of future greatness fast set in the soil; and I trust I have here shown that there are attachments and principles already diffused over the country, which not to cherish and support would be sin in the sight of God and man. What the Venerable Society has done, and undertaken to do, for the diocese, is a blessed work; and may God for ever prosper its endeavours!

G. J. MONTREAL.

R. CLAY, PRINTER, BREAD STREET HILL, LONDON.

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